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SATURDAY

December 2, 2017

Davis asks FBI to handle Suiter probe

Commissioner fears that the department has been kept in the dark

Det. Sean Suiter died after being shot on Nov. 15

By Kevin Rector and Justin Fenton
The Baltimore Sun

Baltimore Police Commissioner Kevin Davis has asked the FBI to take over the investigation into the death of Detective Sean Suiter.

Davis made the request in a letter submitted Friday to FBI Director Christopher Wray in Washington. An FBI spokesman had no comment on whether the agency would agree to the request.

Davis announced his decision at a news conference Friday, saying it was prompted in part by a lack of information about a federal police corruption probe in which Suiter was scheduled to testify the day after he was shot. Davis has said Baltimore police weren't told of Suiter's pending testimony for nearly a week after his death. He said Friday he fears his detectives are in the dark.

"Our homicide detectives, some of the best in the business, some of the best I've ever seen, can't do their jobs effectively if there is a perception or a reality that we don't possess all the information that we need to conduct the investigation," Davis said.

Acting U.S. Attorney Stephen Schenning on Friday disputed Davis' account, saying he told the police commissioner the day Suiter died of the pending

See **SUITER,** *page 12*

LLOYD FOX/BALTIMORE SUN

Baltimore Police Commissioner Kevin Davis at a news conference on the Suiter investigation.

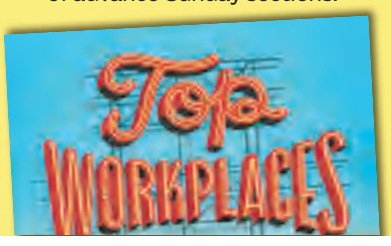
Developments

- City asks FBI to take over investigation of Det. Sean Suiter's death
- Baltimore Police will continue investigation pending FBI response
- There is a divide among city police officials over cause of Suiter's death
- Investigators have explored possibility Suiter committed suicide
- No forensic evidence proves Suiter was shot by another person, nor does evidence support suicide, commissioner says

COMING THIS WEEKEND

SPECIAL MAGAZINE

Some subscribers will receive this publication with Saturday delivery of advance Sunday sections.



FLYNN ENTERS A GUILTY PLEA

Former national security adviser is now cooperating with the Mueller investigation

ANDREW HARRER/BLOOMBERG

Michael Flynn, former U.S. national security adviser, left, arrives at the U.S. Courthouse in Washington to plead guilty to a charge of lying to the FBI about contacts with the Russian ambassador. As part of his plea deal, Flynn agreed to cooperate with Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of the Trump campaign and White House. **ARTICLE, NEWS PG 8**

Embattled city judge Alfred Nance steps down

Court was considering removing him from bench

By Tim Prudente and Justin Fenton
The Baltimore Sun

Baltimore Chief Circuit Judge Alfred Nance stepped down Friday, before Maryland's highest court could decide whether to expel him after his two decades on the bench.

Nance had submitted his retirement, effective Friday, to Gov. Larry Hogan, said Doug Mayer, a spokesman for the governor.

Nance, 69, also sent an email Friday to Baltimore judges, which read in its entirety: "It truly has been my honor. Best wishes," according to two people who saw it but did not want to be identified.

The Maryland Court of Appeals was to decide whether Nance should be punished for remarks he made during criminal trials two years ago. The state Commission on Judicial Disabilities found in October that Nance made disparaging and demeaning comments that undermined the integrity of the

See **NANCE,** *page 12*

Oh, Christmas trees, how lovely is your adequate supply

By Jeff Barker
The Baltimore Sun

Like Santa's elves, Christmas tree retailers begin planning months in advance of the holiday season. And as local Christmas tree lot owners reached out to growers last summer to lock in supplies, many learned of a possible holiday headache — a shortage of trees, particularly from leading producers in North Carolina and Oregon.

The shortage could have meant raising prices, turning away longtime customers and losing ground to a Christmas rival: the artificial tree.

The story mostly has a cheery ending befitting the season. Most local dealers say prices remain consistent with last year and there seem to be enough trees for shoppers to avoid a "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" sort of holiday nightmare.

But securing adequate supplies did not come without a scramble — and without

See **TREES,** *page 12*

NEWS SUMMARY

NATION & WORLD

SENATE TAX BILL: Overcoming eleventh-hour hitches, Senate Republicans steamed toward passage of a $1.4 trillion tax bill Friday. **NEWS PG 8**

TODAY'S WEATHER

PARTLY CLOUDY

52 HIGH | 31 LOW

Sunny on Sunday **SPORTS PG 10**

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